KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) Some areas in Raniganj Coalfields of West Bengal are prone to subsidence mainly due to unscientific mining carried out in the past before the nationalisation of coal mines. In 1978 a Committee set up by the Government of India had examined all the subsidence prone areas. Government of West Bengal had enacted a legislation called the West Bengal Restriction on Construction in Unsafe Areas Act, 1979 for prevention of construction over the areas declared unsafe. Despite this enactment, constructions have been going on over many unsafe areas.

Some of the steps being taken to deal with the problem of subsidence in Raniganj Coalfield are given below :

(i) Since there is no proven technology for stabilisation of inaccessible water logging workings, an innovative technology of hydro-pneumatic stowing is being given trial in an area near Raniganj township.

(ii) An Apex Monitoring Committee has been constituted by Coal India Limited with representatives of Government of West Bengal, Directorate General of Mines Safety, Central Mine Planning and Design Institute, Eastern Coalfields Limited, local representatives etc., for examination of unsafe areas. The Committee has completed the survey and has declared certain localities in Raniganj Coalfield as unsafe for habitation. Central Mine Planning and Design Institute has taken up formulation of schemes for dealing with each unsafe locality subject to availability of funds.

(iii) Regular follow-up and liaison with the District authorities is maintained for evacuation of people from areas declared unsafe.

Dues of coal companies outstanding against power stations

1474. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether any dues of coal companies are outstanding against the power stations in the country ;

(b) if so, the total amount due from each power station towards each coal company for the year 1991-92 and so far in 1993 ;

(c) the reasons for which the money could not be recovered so far ; and

(d) what remedial measures have been taken for their recovery ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of amounts due to Coal India Limited from power utilities as on 1st April, 1992 and 31st March, 1993 were as follows :—

Name of Power Utilities	Data provisional Amount Rs. in crores	
	As on 1-4-1992	As on 31-3-1993
1	2	3
1. Andhra Pradesh Electricity Board	4.45	5.41
2. Ahmedabad Elec. Company	28.99	30.07
3. Badarpur Thermal Power Station . . .	88.90	237.13
4. Bihar State Elec. Board	22.57	27.80

1	2	3
5. Calcutta Electric Supply Co.	3.24	4.80
6. Damodar Valley Corporation	245.73	251.42
7. Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking	36.39	36.88
8. Durgapur Project Ltd.	44.39	79.92
9. Gujarat State Electricity Board	115.50	148.37
10. Haryana State Electricity Board	109.69	129.55
11. Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd.	15.50	8.34
12. Madhya Pradesh Elec. Board	44.41	48.45
13. Maharashtra State Elec. Board	245.75	319 96
14. National Thermal Power Corporation.	70.73	172.38
15. Orissa State Elec. Board	3.28	13.89
16. Punjab State Elec. Board	125.71	191.28
17. Rajasthan State Elec. Board	34 02	19.99
18. Tamil Nadu Elec. Board	67.05	82.33
19. Uttar Pradesh State Elec. Board	412.50	291.78
20. West Bengal State Elec. Board	128.65	133.14
21. West Bengal Power Dev. Corpon.	169.78	148.51
22. Others	(—)0.19	10.29
TOTAL :	1847.22	2391.69

(c) The dues have accumulated over a period of time because of gap between the value of coal supplied by coal companies and payments made by power utilities. One of the main reasons for non-clearance of coal bills is the financial constraints faced by the power utilities.

(d) Steps taken to recover the outstanding dues are as follows :

(i) All Power units commissioned after 1st April, 1989 were being supplied coal only against advance payment or against revolving Letter of Credit.

(ii) Government of India have decided to adjust all undisputed coal sales outstanding as on 31st May, 1990 against the Central Assistance to State plans payable to the State Governments whose State Electricity Boards had defaulted in four equal instalments. So far three instalments have been received.

(iii) As a result of mounting arrears of outstanding dues, Ministry of Coal advised CIL to start supplying coal to the Power Utilities only against advance payments. This scheme, which is better known as 'Cash and Carry Scheme' was introduced with effect from 1st October, 1991. A decision has since been taken to enforce this scheme strictly with effect from April, 1993.

(iv) State Governments have been requested to pursuade/enable their State Electricity Boards to clear the outstanding dues at the earliest.

Shortage of coal in coal undertakings

1475. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) what is the quantum of shortage of coal in respect of Eastern Coalfields Ltd.